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Advertising: 25c. 30c. and 35c. net.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 16, 1924.

We have frequently heard people ask why the waters of the lower Cape Fear are always so red. If those inquires could have been in Chatham last month they could answer the question for themselves.

Miss Kate Burr Johnson, State welfare commissioner, wins in Wake and Mrs. Bickett is chosen county superintendent of welfare. This means that welfare work in North Carolina is divorced from politics. Superintendencies cannot be handed out as political plums so long as Mrs. Johnson has the veto power.

The editor of the Record, by grace of a residence of five years in the home town of Mr. A. W. McLean, candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket, can personally vouch for him as a gentleman, scholar, and fine business man, and hopes to see Chatham county roll up a big majority for him in November.

LaFollett and Senator Brookhart are not sparing the feeling of their former Republican colleagues. They declare the Republican party rotten and they should know what they are talking about. Brookhart is running as the Republican nominee for the Senate from Iowa, but he is skinning Coolidge, Dawes, and the Republican leaders in general.

Despite the willingness to believe in the practicability of the proposed expenditure of \$8,000,000 for port developments, we still feel that the State is contemplating almost as hazardous gambles as purchasers of eastern North Carolina "oil" lands, and that Stacey Wade might serve the state a good turn if he could put his foot down hard upon this "blue sky" proposition.

A note from our ancient friend Col. C. S. Wooten, of Mount Olive, known throughout North Carolina for interesting contributions to the papers about the good old days, after expressing his regrets at not finding his friend in his old haunts on a recent visit to Clinton, concludes: "I am 84 and in perfect health. I haven't an ache or pain." Indeed one of the regrets of our change of domicile is that of missing the pleasure of an occasional call from this scholarly gentleman of the old school.

Judge Frank Daniels before whom was tried Romulus Grady, of Duplin county, on the charge of cutting his son's throat while drunk, pronounced the killing, "the finished product of the liquor business." Grady swore that he does not even remember having a quarrel with his son and that the first he knew of the tragedy was when he awoke from his drunken stupor and found himself trying to stop the flow of blood from the gaping wound in his son's throat. A civilized community should not allow such hell broth as bootleg liquor to be made or sold in its bounds.

The Durham Herald suggests that the time has come when North Carolina should provide a college for its negro youth. If education is good for white folk, it is good for negroes. Yet if it were not for Staw Univ rsit and other negro schools established and fostered by northern money, our negro youth would have to leave the state to secure a college education. North Carolina citizens, white or black, should not be dependent upon Northern charity for an opportunity to get an education. The negro has paid his way in North Carolina, if anybody has done so, and we agree with the Herald that the state should give greater consideration to the educational needs of the race.

The death of Dr. R. H. Marsh of Oxford removes one of the State's landmarks. Dr. Marsh was a great preacher, but was satisfied to devote his life to the ministry of Granville county country churches for fifty years. He and his colleague, Rev. R. I. Devin, father of Judge Devin, were both big enough not to have to seek prestige by position. Yet honors came to them unsought. Dr. Marsh was president of the Baptist State Convention for several years and a member of the board of trustees of Wake Forest College for a generation. He died at the age of 86. Col. J. D. Dorsette, of Siler City, was a relative and a mess mate of Dr. Marsh's during the war, and attended the funeral at Oxford Wednesday.

than to the Judges. Juries, no doubt, are frequently swayed by a false sense of mercy and allow offenders to escape just punishment. But, in Sampson county, a case is awaiting Judge Frank Daniels next week that will test his stamina, or that of any other judge who might be confronted with a similar unpleasant duty.

Submission on the part of Clerk of Court Sessoms to the charge of misapplication of pension funds saved a jury of his former friends the distasteful duty of convicting him, for it would have been difficult to find a jury in Sampson county that should not have been comprised largely of the Clerk's friends of former years. There was no more popular man in the county than Fleet Sessoms. He had taken the Scriptural injunction to make friends of, or through, the mammon of unrighteousness literally and had not been at all squeamish as to the source of the mammon necessary to buy booze and the food, to keep a big pack of hounds, to travel hither and thither over the country attending song fests, and to do the many other things that made him hail fellow with citizens of every shade of opinion and of all moral standards. Scarcely a judge or solicitor had visited the Sampson court for fifteen years who had not been entertained by the "big hearted" clerk. Yes, Fleet Sessoms was a popular man and for many years highly esteemed as one of the "best clerks" in the state. But, fortunately, a Sampson county jury did not have to pass upon the case, though the evidence of long and almost continuous stealing was so clear and definite that it is inconceivable that even a jury composed of his former adherents would have had the temerity to acquit him.

Submission was made at the August term of criminal court, but judgment was withheld until the October term. That term convenes October 20. Judge Daniels is the man who must determine whether an official who has betrayed the people of a county and continuously robbed the Confederate veterans of the state is to pay the penalty the same as the hundreds of smaller offenders against whom the ex-clerk has recorded road and penitentiary sentences during the period of his own stealings.

A wrong impression got abroad in the state at the time of the submission. The regular correspondent of the state papers was absent the day of the submission, and a visiting newspaper writer wrote the account which appeared in the public press, and from which the public inferred that the shortage was due to a poor system of bookkeeping. But that impression is utterly wrong. There were no books to keep with regard to the pension funds. The vouchers came to the clerk from the State Auditor and all that the clerk had to do was to deliver them or return them. In case of scores of dead men kept illegally on the list by Sessoms himself, the vouchers were neither delivered to relatives of the deceased nor returned to the State auditor, but were endorsed by Sessoms with the dead man's "mark", witnessed by himself, and deposited in his own bank account. There was no reason under the sun why he should not know that he was misapplying the funds.

In the first place, he was almost absolutely bound to know that scores of pensioners kept on the list were dead. When the present editor of the Record got a copy of the list he could mark off many dead ones from personal knowledge, and within a few days, by inquiry, had been enabled to discover the names of sixty odd dead men and women on the list, and the editor's knowledge of people in Sampson county could not have equalled that of the man concededly the best acquainted of all men with the people of Sampson county, and especially with the pensioners whose vouchers he had handled for many years.

Personally, we should hate to see Fleet Sessoms sentenced to a term in the penitentiary, if for nothing else than because of his good wife and fine children. But as a citizen and an editor who believes not only in protecting the public from the inroads of dishonest officials but also in the same treatment for all offenders, big or little, and for the same consideration for the wife and children of the poor country bumpkins as for those of the petted-office-holder, we should be bound to condemn as a miscarriage of justice any penalty non-commensurate with the long series of crimes committed against the people of the state and especially against the poor Confederate veterans.

Sessoms himself deserves no consideration at all. He was utterly shameless in his guilt. When the editor of the Sampson Democrat had shown, in his paper and on the stump, two years ago, that the trust funds

ly made no defense, but even when the time for the next report of witness fees in his possession was due, passed right on by the time for weeks and not till after the next pension funds had become available did he publish a list of witnesses for the past four years who had been held out of their fees. Moreover, since that enforced requirement with the law, no other publication has been made, so that the school board is as far from obtaining what fees were not called for by former witnesses as it ever was, for the law requires that the list of uncalled for fees shall be published three successive years and shall then revert to the schools. Yet nobody till this good day knows how much of the \$3000 witness fees was called for by the former witnesses or how much of the \$3000 Sessoms has still diverted to his private use.

Again, after it had been shown that he had absolutely failed to report thousands of dollars of trust funds known to have been in his hands, he still disregarded the requirements of the law and, though reporting the funds proved to have been received by him, did not state to whom they were loaned or what security he had for them, though the law which required these things specifically had been published before his very nose and had been quoted on a dozen stumps in the county. So that till this day, unless representatives of the owners or recent auditors have discovered the facts, nobody knows how many thousands of dollars of trust funds of orphans have been squandered by the trusted official. Indeed an audit will almost assuredly reveal shortages in other than pension funds.

There is hardly a parallel case of such gall and such corruption in the state as that of the former Sampson clerk of court, and any impression to the contrary is at variance with the facts.

Next week we shall try to take the opportunity to show that Clerk Sessoms is not the only offender in the matter of pensions.

Judge Henry Grady is a maker or breaker of precedents. He held a session of the Brunswick court Tuesday of last week in the woods at the scene of the murder of the two officers, George and Lilly, a few months ago.

The Cotton News, the organ of the N.C. Cotton Coop. Marketing Association, is paying Mr. N. J. Dark the compliment of reprinting his long article published in the Record October 2. It is a compliment worthily bestowed as the article was one of the strongest pleas for cooperative marketing we have recently read.

LEON WILSON GETS DAMAGES.

The negro who smashed Mr. Leon Wilson's car near Carey sometime ago was convicted in Wake county last week and sentenced to pay Mr. Wilson \$100 for damages to his car and to pay all costs, which were heavy, especially when the negro's attorney fees were included, as he had three attorneys, who if they charged as the two Raleigh attorneys charged the county commissioners of Wake for defending the convict camp boss charged with letting prisoners escape, would break up any ordinary negro. Mr. Daniel L. Bell, of Pittsboro, assisted the solicitor.

hiltion. If you want to see the real article come to the Pittsboro High school auditorium on Halloween night. Watch next week's Record for further announcement.

WILL CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY.

A birthday dinner will be given to Mr. D. W. Talley at his home near Goldston on Saturday, November the 1st. This has formerly been a family affair, but this year the public is cordially invited to come and bring baskets. Be on time and enjoy a good time together.

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Oil in advance

MOST anybody can drive a car, but looking after it is really a mechanic's job. The trouble is that lots of people just drive and drive and drive. As long as the car goes they think everything is O.K.

Men with some mechanical training get the most out of their cars. They know that they must oil in advance. It's usually too late if you wait till a squeak develops or a bearing heats up. Still, anyone with a mechanical turn of mind can acquire the habit of paying proper attention to lubrication.

There's just one safe rule. Oil and grease on a definite schedule—a mileage basis. Make it a matter of regular routine. It is not a question of once a week or once a month, but every 500 miles, 1000 miles or 1500 miles, depending on the part of the car to be lubricated. It does not really take long to oil a car properly and it pays for itself over and over again in smooth running, low repairs and long life. If you are in doubt as to where, when, and how to oil, take your car round to your service man. Watch him put in the "Standard" Polarine Motor Oil. Next time you will be able to do most of it yourself.

Changing the crank case oil is the main lubrication job. Also the dirtiest. It will usually pay to have it done for you. "Standard" Service Stations and most "Standard" dealers are equipped to do it for you promptly and well.

Save yourself time, trouble and money by starting on a regular oiling schedule today.

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Oils you can Trust!

Three consistencies—
one correct for your motor. Consult your dealer's Polarine chart—always name the oil it recommends.

Tobacco News

Tobacco Selling High at Burlington.

The LEADER Warehouse, of Burlington, invites Chatham County Farmers to bring their Tobacco to its floor. Our prices this week are strong. All the companies are represented on our floors and are anxious for tobacco. Bring us your next load and we will see that you get the Highest Dollar for every pile you sell with us.

The Leader Warehouse,
JAS. WARREN, JESS TINGIN,
JOHN LEATH, WILL LEATH, Proprietors.